

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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62

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

L-03 /039 W

----- 078771

R 121248Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1144

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

CONFIDENTIAL LAGOS 8946

AF/RA: PLS PASS GIST PARA 1 TO AALC O'FARRELL OR FUNK

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, NI

SUBJECT: ULC CONFERENCE VOTES TO JOIN NLC

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. UNITED LABOUR CONGRESS OF NIGERIA (ULC), AT MAJOR CONFERENCE HELD KANO, VOTED UNANIMOUSLY SEPT. 11 TO JOIN NASCENT, OVERALL NATIONAL LABOR CENTRAL NIGERIAN LABOR CONGRESS (NLC). DELEGATES VOTED TO HAVE ULC CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE WORK WITH NLC STANDING COMMITTEE TO EFFECT MERGER BEFORE 31 DEC. THIS YEAR. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL COMMENT: UNANIMOUS VOTE, REPORTEDLY ACCOMPLISHED IN ATMOSPHERE OF UNIVERSAL JUBLIATION, WOULD SEEM AUGUR WELL FOR PROMPT MERGER MAJOR NIGERIAN LABOR CONFEDERATIONS INTO ONE BODY. HOWEVER, HISTORY SUCH LONG AWAITED UNIFICATION HAS BEEN CONVOLUTED, ON-AGAIN-OFF-AGAIN PROPOSITION, MORE CHARACTERIZED BY FACTIONAL DISSENT AND SELF SERVING INDIVIDUAL POLITICS THAN ONENESS OF PURPOSE. DESPITE KANO CONFERENCE VOTE, ULC STILL NOT ENTIRELY IN BAG, IN SMALL, PRIVATE CAUCUS IN LAGOS SEPT. 4, ULC PRESIDENT KALTUNGO AND ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY ODEYEMI, WHO HAD LONG BEEN HOLDOUTS, AGREED THEY WOULD REVERSE THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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PREVIOUS POSITIONS AND WOULD PUBLICLY SUPPORT MERGER AT

KANO. THEY, HOWEVER, WOULD THEN CONTINUE WORK BEHIND SCENES
PREVENT EFFECTUATION.

3. GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE BACKING MERGER AT PRESENT.
IN GOODWILL MESSAGE TO CONFERENCE, FEDERAL LABOUR COMMISSIONER
ADEFOPE SEEMED STRESS UNITY LABOR MOVEMENT (HE CONDEMNED
"PROLIFERATION SMALL AND UNViable TRADE UNIONS"), CALLING
FOR IMPROVEMENT PRODUCTIVITY AND LABOR'S GENERAL ASSISTANCE
IN ACHIEVEMENT THIRD NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS.
COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE ALSO CONTAINED FOOD-FOR-THOUGHT
WARNING AGAINST "TOO MUCH RELIANCE ON FOREIGN IDEOLOGIES
AND FOREIGN SOURCES OF FINANCING OF ACTIVITIES" NIGERIAN
TRADE UNIONS. END CONFIDENTIAL COMMENT.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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